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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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|-------------|-----------------------------|---|------------------|----------------|
| Appl. No.: | 10/550,869 ✓ | § | Confirmation No. | To Be Assigned |
| | | § | | |
| Applicant: | Stewart Kenyon Willis | § | | |
| Filed: | 26 September 2005 | § | | |
| TC/A.U. | To Be Assigned | § | | |
| | | § | | |
| Examiner: | To Be Assigned | § | | |
| | | § | | |
| Title: | Apparatus and Methods for | § | | |
| | Laying of Elongate Articles | § | | |
| | from a Vessel | § | | |
| | | § | | |
| Docket No.: | Stolt-56 | § | | |
| | | § | | |

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

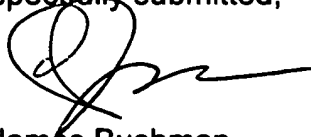
Sir:

Applicants wish to make of record in the above-referenced application the references listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. Copies of the cited references are enclosed herewith.

Applicant also wishes to bring to the attention of the Office a paper entitled "Torch Offshore Innovative Approach to Deep Water Flowline Installation" which appears to describe basically the same apparatus as disclosed in U.S. Publication 2003/091395 listed on Form PTO 1449. However, there is additional material on page 3 of the paper which may be relevant to the present invention. Despite diligent efforts, Applicant/Assignee have been unable to determine if and when the paper was ever published. It has been in the possession of the Assignee since March of 2002. However, as noted above if and when the paper was ever published cannot be determined by Applicant/Assignee. The authors Messrs. Mermis and Lecarme were at one time employees of Assignee. In any event, the paper is being sent with the IDS and Applicant's respectfully requests that the Examiner solicit the Scientific and Technical Information Center in an attempt to determine when and

if the paper was published.

Respectfully submitted,



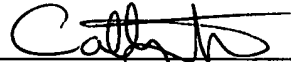
C. James Bushman
Reg. No. 24,810

Date: May 24, 2006

BROWNING BUSHMAN
5718 Westheimer, Suite 1800
Houston, TX 77057
Tel.: (713) 266-5593
Fax: (713) 266-5169

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I certify that this document is being deposited
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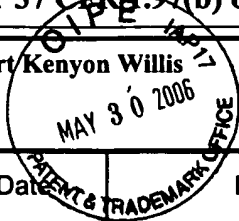


Cathy Hayes

TRANSMITTAL OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
(Under 37 CFR 1.97(b) or 1.97(c))

Docket No.
Stolt-56

In Re Application Of: Stewart Kenyon Willis



| Application No. | Filing Date | Examiner | Customer No. | Group Art Unit | Confirmation No. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|------------------|
| 10/550,869 | 09/26/05 | To Be Assigned | 39703 | To Be Assigned | To Be Assigned |

Title: Apparatus and Methods for Laying of Elongate Articles from a Vessel

Address to:
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

37 CFR 1.97(b)

1. ☒ The Information Disclosure Statement submitted herewith is being filed within three months of the filing of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under 37 CFR 1.53(d); within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 CFR 1.491 in an international application; before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits, or before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114.

37 CFR 1.97(c)

2. ☐ The Information Disclosure Statement submitted herewith is being filed after the period specified in 37 CFR 1.97(b), provided that the Information Disclosure Statement is filed before the mailing date of a Final Action under 37 CFR 1.113, a Notice of Allowance under 37 CFR 1.311, or an Action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and is accompanied by one of:

☐ the statement specified in 37 CFR 1.97(e);

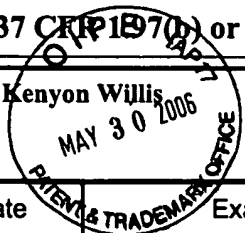
OR

☐ the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p).

TRANSMITTAL OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
(Under 37 CFR 1.97(d) or 1.97(c))

Docket No.
Stolt-56

In Re Application of: **Stewart Kenyon Willis**



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|-------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Application No. 10/550,869 | Filing Date 09/26/05 | Examiner To Be Assigned | Customer No. 39703 | Group Art Unit To Be Assigned | Confirmation No. To Be Assigned |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|

Title: **Apparatus and Methods for Laying of Elongate Articles from a Vessel**

Payment of Fee

(Only complete if Applicant elects to pay the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p))

- ☐ A check in the amount of _____ is attached.
- ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge and credit Deposit Account No. 02-4345 as described below.
- ☐ Charge the amount of _____
- ☐ Credit any overpayment.
- ☒ Charge any additional fee required.
- ☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.

WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.

Certificate of Transmission by Facsimile*

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| I certify that this document and authorization to charge deposit account is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (Fa |
| _____ (Date) |
| _____ Signature |
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| I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450" [37 CFR 1.8(a)] on |
| <u>5-25-06</u> (Date) |
| <u>Cathy Hayes</u> Signature of Person Mailing Correspondence |
| Cathy Hayes Typed or Printed Name of Person Mailing Certificate |

*This certificate may only be used if paying by deposit account.

C. James Bushman
Signature

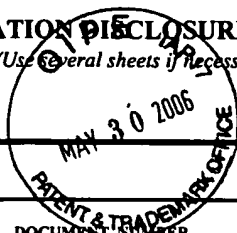
Dated: May 24, 2006

C. James Bushman, Reg. No. 24,810
Browning Bushman P.C.
5718 Westheimer, Suite 1800
Houston, Texas 77057-5771
Tel: (713) 266-5593
Fax: (713) 266-5169

CC:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

(Use several sheets if necessary)



Docket Number (Optional)

Stolt-56

Application Number

10/550,869

Applicant(s)

Stewart Kenyon Willis

Filing Date

09/26/05

Group Art Unit

To Be Assigned

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| *EXAMINER INITIAL | REF | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE |
|----------------------|-----|-----------------|----------|------------------|-------|----------|-------------------------------|
| | | 4,269,540 | 05/26/81 | Uyeda et al. | | | |
| | | 5,449,252 | 09/12/95 | Maloberti et al. | | | |
| | | 5,975,802 | 11/02/99 | Willis | | | |
| | | 6,213,686 B1 | 04/10/01 | Baugh | | | |
| | | 6,352,388 B1 | 03/05/02 | Seguin | | | |

U.S. PATENT APPLICATION PUBLICATIONS

| *EXAMINER INITIAL | REF | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE |
|----------------------|-----|-----------------|----------|------------|-------|----------|-------------------------------|
| | | 2003/0091395 A1 | 05/15/03 | Stockstill | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| | REF | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUBCLASS | Translation | |
|--|-----|-----------------|----------|---------------|-------|----------|-------------|----|
| | | | | | | | YES | NO |
| | | WO 02/057675A1 | 07/25/02 | International | | | | |
| | | WO 03/004915 A1 | 01/16/03 | International | | | | |
| | | EP 0717222A1 | 06/19/96 | Europe | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |
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OTHER DOCUMENTS

(Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| | | Torch Offshore Innovative Approach to Deepwater Flowline Installation, Jim Mermis and Vincent Lacarme, Torch Offshore Inc., pages 1-4 |
| | | |

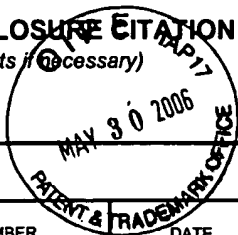
EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP Section 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

(Use several sheets if necessary)



ATTY DOCKET NO.

Stolt-56

APPLICATION NO.

10/550,869

APPLICANT(S)

Stewart Kenyon Willis

FILING DATE

09/26/05

GROUP ART UNIT

To Be Assigned

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| *EXAMINER INITIAL | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE |
|----------------------|-----------------|----------|-----------------|-------|----------|-------------------------------|
| | 6,351,388 B1 | 03/05/02 | Seguin | | | |
| | 6,361,250 B1 | 03/26/02 | de Varax | | | |
| | 6,371,694 B1 | 04/16/02 | de Varax et al. | | | |
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U.S. PATENT APPLICATION PUBLICATIONS

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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

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OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

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EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

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